

58-831-A

MAR 17 1958

Mr. Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer
Operations Coordinating Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Elmer:

Your letter of 6 March 1958 raises a question that has been on our minds recently, but from a somewhat different point of view. Like you, we have experienced the need for staff readjustments and for budgetary revisions. As you suggest, times have changed appreciably since we began assigning a junior officer to a training position in OCB.

I have been compelled to reduce the numbers of the Junior Officer Training Program and to urge that the training of these young people be directed as closely as possible toward their early assimilation into the components for which they are being prepared. The difficulty is compounded by the need to give fuller training before turning them over to the substantive divisions. Our problem then is to do a better job of training for fewer people at minimum expense and in the shortest time consonant with the specific tasks they will undertake. A study along these lines is even now being made.

I am informed by Matt Baird that under these circumstances, to give a trainee an extra year's broadening experience in OCB is something of a luxury. The fact is that the benefits he derives, though generally they are substantial, are peripheral to our objectives for him. It is not a training experience which prepares the junior officer directly for any permanent position in the Agency and therefore does not serve the purposes for which our on-the-desk assignments are designed.

In view of these considerations and of the pressures being exerted on OCB and the Agency training program, I suggest that the assignment of a junior officer to OCB for training purposes be discontinued with the termination of [REDACTED] tour.

STATINTL

Sincerely,

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L. K. White
Deputy Director

STATINTL ORIGINATED BY: [REDACTED]

Director of Training

14 MAR 1958

Date

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